

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 H-01 DODE-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MPLATT
APPROVED BY ARA:CWBRAV
DIA:GEISEN
H:LPEZZULLO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMCONSUL BELIZE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH, US

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON BELIZE

RER: (A) STATE 71565 (B) GUATEMALA 2005

1. REF A PROVIDES TEXT OF DIA BRIEFING ON BELIZE DISPUTE
GIVEN TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.
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THIS BRIEFING WAS GIVEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION TO THE SUB-
COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1976. THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS
HOLDING A SERIES OF HEARINGS ON COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE
WESTERN HEMISPHERE. DATES FOR THE HEARING WERE OCTOBER 7,
1975; JUNE 15, 1976 AND SEPTEMBER 16, 1976.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE MAIN TOPIC, ON WHICH A VARIETY OF

WITNESSES TESTIFIED, DIA PERSONNEL PROVIDED BRIEFINGS ON A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS AND COUNTRIES TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE. A BRIEF COMMENT WAS OFFERED ON THE STATUS OF THE BELIZE DISPUTE (REF A). DIA AND STATE WERE LATER ASKED TO CLEAR THE TRANSCRIPT FOR RELEASE AS A CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT. (COPY POUCHED TO EMBASSY). THIS WAS DONE BUT SINCE THE BULK OF THE SUBJECT MATTER CONCERNED COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE HEMISPHERE, DESKS IN DIA AND STATE THAT COVER CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS THE BELIZE DISPUTE WERE

NOT INVOLVED IN THE CLEARANCE PROCESS. THUS THE SECTION THAT DESCRIBED THE GOG NEGOTIATIONSTRATEGY AS "PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S NEGOTIATORS HAVE INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT,IN PRINCIPLE, AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE..." REMAINED IN THE TRANSCRIPT.

3. PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR TODAY IS AS FOLLOWS:

"Q. ACCORDING TO A RECENTLY PUBLISHED TRANSCRIPT OF HEARINGS LAST SEPTEMBER BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE, GUATEMALA IS APPARENTLY NOW WILLING TO ACCEPT THE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT?

A. WE WILL NOT COMMENT ON THE POSITION OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES.

Q. THEN WHY DID A U.S. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN TELL THE CONGRESS THAT THE GUATEMALANS WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE?

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A. THE USG HAS STATED NO SUCH OPINION AND TAKES NO OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE MERITS OF THE DISPUTE OVER BELIZE BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GUATEMALA. THIS STATEMENT TO WHICH YOU REFER WAS THE OPINION OF ONE OFFICIAL OF A U.S. AGENCY MADE IN AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE CONGRESS. HIS STATEMENT DOES NOT REPRESENT U.S. POLICY."

4. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU INFORM THE GOG OF THE BACKGROUND IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE AND REITERATE THAT THIS WAS IN NO WAY A POLICY STATEMENT ON THE PART OF THE US GOVERNMENT. WE DO NOT, OF COURSE, PRESUME TO TELL THE GUATMALANS WHAT THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION SHOULD BE AND REGRET THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ALLOWED THIS UNCLEARED BRIEFING STATEMENT TO BECOME PUBLIC.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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